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## Former mayor denied pension

The state Retirement Board unanimously turns down William R. Macera's bid for a disability pension.

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**JOHNSTON** — Former Mayor William R. Macera will not receive a \$1,249 monthly pension, the state Retirement Board voted yesterday.

**JOHNSTON** | The board's unanimous vote dovetails with the most recent recommendation of a subcommittee that had reviewed Macera's application for an ordinary disability pension.

The state pension benefit is for

eligible municipal employees who have medical conditions that keep them from being able to work.

If an employee has worked for five years and becomes disabled, the person is eligible for the special pension if the board approves.

To qualify for an ordinary pension — as opposed to an ordinary disability pension — the employee must be at least 58 years old. Also, the person must have 10 years of work experience.

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## Macera

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Macera lacked the work experience to qualify for the ordinary pension. After almost eight years in office, his only chance for a pension rested with his application for the ordinary disability pension.

Macera submitted the application late last year after he decided against seeking another term of office.

In April, the board's subcommittee recommended him for the disability pension.

However, the chairman of the state Retirement Board, General Treasurer Frank Caprio, wanted more information and analysis.

A number of issues arose, Caprio said yesterday.

One issue involved the claimed disability status of the 67-year-old former mayor.

Anyone over the age of 65 is considered disabled by the Social Security Administration, Caprio said. Private insurers use the



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mayor's health.

When he chose not to mount a reelection campaign last year, Macera cited the effects of cancer.

But Caprio said that one of the

same standard for insurance purposes, he said.

Caprio also said that Macera's medical reports gave the board conflicting information as to the former

medical reports that Macera gave to the subcommittee was favorable.

"His own treating physician had his health in positive light," Caprio said.

Frank Karpinski, executive director of the Retirement Board, said the disability pension would have paid Macera \$1,249 a month.

Reached by telephone early last evening, Macera said he could not discuss the matter because he was about to sit down to dinner.

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